



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Maggie Brooks Attends First Meeting of Reform Task Force

★ Governor Pataki Kicks-off Initial Session of Non-Partisan Statewide Panel ★

Monroe County Clerk Maggie Brooks attended the first meeting of Governor Pataki's newly created New York State Task Force on Local Government Reform, in Albany today. Appointed to this statewide panel last month, Brooks is the sole member from Monroe County and the only County Clerk.

The Governor personally kicked-off the initial session of the nonpartisan statewide panel this morning. The Task Force will seek to advance innovative reforms and new ideas designed to help local governments become more efficient and cost-effective at the village, town, city and county levels. The Task Force is comprised of 22 members, 14 of whom are local elected officials. In addition to Brooks, these elected officials include a county executive, city and village mayors, town supervisors, the chair of a county legislature and a village trustee.

"I applaud Governor Pataki for his vision and his commitment to local government and the unique challenges local governments across the state of New York face – from the vast metropolis of the City of New York to small towns and villages like Wheatland and Churchville in Monroe County," said Brooks. "As a leader with roots in local government, the Governor knows that what municipalities need is not pie-in-the-sky wishful thinking, but concrete recommendations that local leaders can apply to make their communities even better places to live and work and raise a family."

Brooks said that as a member of the Task Force, she will be proud to showcase Monroe County as a leader in local governmental cooperation and partnerships, such as providing civil service and purchasing functions for local governments throughout Monroe County, as well as other notable programs, such as the centralized 911 operation and the state-of-the-art Public Safety Training Facility.

"When other county governments want to benchmark local cooperation and consolidation efforts, Monroe County is one of the first places they go," said Brooks.

The Task Force, created by an Executive Order signed by the Governor, will review and evaluate an inventory of possible local governmental reforms and develop innovative new measures aimed at making government smarter and more effective at all levels. It will seek public input and make recommendations in a written report to be delivered to Governor Pataki no later than August 1, 2003.

"The challenge before us as members of the Governor's Task Force on Local Government Reform is to prepare recommendations that can be put to use now, in local government, for the benefit of local taxpayers," said Brooks. "After today's first meeting, I am excited at our prospects of doing just that."

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